

RE: Workers benefits & Protestors

From: "Qualtrough, Carla - Personal" <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
To: "Tassi, Filomena - Personal" <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>, "Freeland, Chrystia - Personal" <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>, "O'Regan, Seamus - Personal" <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
Date: Mon, 07 Feb 2022 15:39:03 +0000

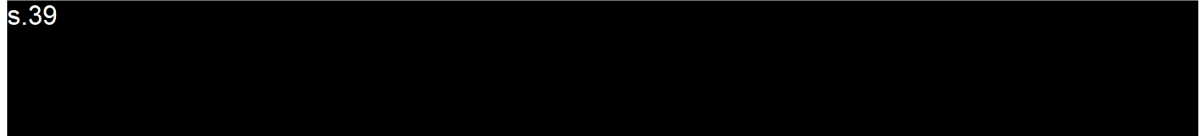
Hi all – adding Seamus into the discussion.....

The bottom line with respect to benefits is that the lockdown benefit is not available for workers who are unable to work due to protest-related business closures, and EI might be available to some workers but certainly not immediately.

With respect to the CWLB, protest-related business closures are not public health based closures, so workers of businesses closed which would not be otherwise impacted by public health orders wouldn't fall into the CWLB category. This being said, Ottawa residents can apply for the CWLB due to public health orders.

In terms of EI, some workers may be eligible based on their individual circumstances, such as if businesses have temporarily laid off workers or fully stopped their work due to the protests. As usual, an ROE would be required to access EI, and claimants would have to indicate they are available and looking for work. However, different work arrangements and approaches by employers could result in eligibility for some workers and not others, and EI is not applicable for instances where hours have been cut considerably but the worker is still employed. There is also a one-week waiting period, which means that businesses which have been closed for the entirety of the past week may now have workers who become eligible for EI. It is important to note that even if someone is eligible for EI beginning this coming week, it is very likely that the protests would end and their work would resume prior to receiving pay, even within the service standards. Opening a new claim for such a short duration may impact workers down the line if they have other life events requiring EI within the coming 52 weeks.

s.39



Hope this helps.

CQ

From: Tassi, Filomena - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: February 6, 2022 2:31 PM
To: Qualtrough, Carla - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>; Freeland, Chrystia - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Workers benefits & Protestors

Thanks Carla. I think businesses will have the same questions about business supports. Just putting it on your radar.

PSPC also has tenants. I will be asking my DM to investigate solutions for workers and tenants under the jurisdiction of PSPC.

I look forward to your response.

Take care
Filomena

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From: Qualtrough, Carla - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 4:26:04 PM
To: Tassi, Filomena - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>; Freeland, Chrystia - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Workers benefits & Protestors

Looking into it. Will have an answer first thing tomorrow.
CQ

From: Tassi, Filomena - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: February 5, 2022 5:57 AM
To: Qualtrough, Carla - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>; Freeland, Chrystia - Personal <[Personal Info.]@parl.gc.ca>
Subject: Workers benefits & Protestors

Good morning ladies,
Quick question. Would a worker, who is unable to work as a result of the protestors, qualify for any benefits? I am thinking specifically about construction workers at centre block who were told not to work this week - for safety reasons.
Filomena

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